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A new subspecies of *Serinus estherae* (Carduelidae) from Sulawesi

by K.-L. Schuchmann & H. E. Wolters

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The avifauna of Sulawesi, formerly known as Celebes, has been studied extensively by Stresemann (1939-1941, *J. Orn.* Vols. 87-89). Since his biogeographical and systematic survey of the birds of this island, based on a collection gathered during an expedition by G. Heinrich from 1930 to 1932, little additional information on the birdlife of Sulawesi has come to our knowledge.

In August 1980, Mr. Christian Krause, one of our collectors, visited the southern ridge of Mt. Rantekombola, Sulawesi (3°23'S, 120°02'E). His field headquarters was situated above treeline at an elevation of 2300 m, where the vegetation is dominated by extended grassland with scattered shrubs. Here he observed small flocks (up to 6 individuals) of *Serinus estherae*, a carduelid seedeater formerly unknown on the island. According to his observations *S. estherae* was restricted to open habitats between 2000 and 3000 m around Mt. Rantekombola. One specimen was collected and is now in the bird collection of the Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum A. Koenig (ZFMK) in Bonn, FRG. It constitutes a new race:

Serinus estherae renatae subsp. nov.

Type: Adult, probably male; Mt. Rantekombola, Sulawesi, elevation 2300 m, 6 August 1980; collected by Christian Krause. Reg. No. Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn 81.563.

Diagnosis: *S. e. renatae* differs mainly from all other subspecies of *S. estherae* by its heavier and wider, cone-shaped beak (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). Otherwise it is similar to *S. e. vanderbilti* de Schauensee (of which *S. e. ripleyi* Chasen is a

synonym): forehead yellow, back dark greyish brown, the head being somewhat lighter greyish brown, the malar region with only the slightest indication of a yellow wash; rump golden yellow, upper tail coverts dark, edged with golden yellow; upper wing coverts and secondaries dark with narrow yellow tips; belly whitish, without the brown centres to the feathers that are apparent on the breast.

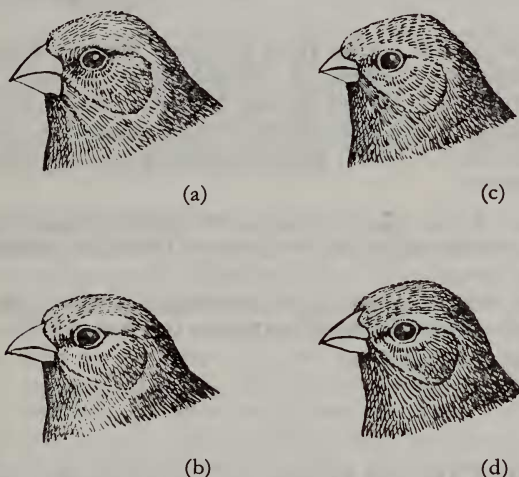


Fig. 1. (a) *Serinus estherae renatae* (note shape of beak), (b) *S. e. orientalis*, (c) *S. e. vanderbilti*, (d) *S. e. estherae*.

TABLE I
Mensural characteristics (mm) of *Serinus estherae* subspecies

	<i>vanderbilti</i>	<i>estherae</i>		<i>orientalis</i>	<i>renatae</i>	<i>mindanensis</i>		
	♂	♂	♀	♂	♂	♂	♀	♂
Wing	67	65-71 (n=4)	67-68 (n=4)	69	71	70	72	69-70 (n=2)
Culmen	8	9	9	8	11	9	7	7
Bill-width	5	6	6	5	8	6.5	6.5	6.5-7 (n=2)
Rectrices	42	43-46 (n=4)	40-45 (n=4)	45	58	39	45	45-46 (n=2)
Tarsus	11	12-15 (n=4)	9-15 (n=4)	11	13	12	12	11-12 (n=2)

Notes: Measurements are those of one specimen unless otherwise indicated.

♂ = unsexed.

Measurements: see Table 1.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

Specimens examined:

Serinus estherae vanderbilti de Schauensee: ♂, type of *S. e. ripleyi* Chasen, Mt. Leuser, N. Sumatra; Mus. Leiden 14057.

Serinus estherae estherae (Finsch): 4 ♂♂ (incl. type), 4 ♀♀, Mt. Pangerango, W. Java; Mus. Leiden 44668, 44691, 44710, 44716, 44657, 44703, 44704, 44711.

Serinus estherae orientalis Chasen: ♂ (type), ♂, Tengger Mts, E. Java; Mus. Leiden 14058.

Serinus (estherae) mindanensis Ripley & Rabor: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 2 unsexed (probably ♀♀), Mt. Katanglad, Mindanao, Philippines; Mus. Koenig, Bonn, 1966. 468, 1966. 469, 1966. 470, 1966. 471.

Etymology: We name this new carduelid for our colleague Dr. Renate van den Elzen in recognition of her work on the ethology of *Serinus* and its allied genera.

Remarks: *Serinus estherae renatae* from Sulawesi fills the geographical gap between the western members of the *estherae* group and *S. mindanensis*, originally regarded as a distinct species, but now usually treated as a subspecies of *S. estherae*. Even in its morphological characters, most obvious in the shape of its bill, *S. e. renatae* fits into a clinal gradation within the *Serinus estherae* superspecies.

Acknowledgements: We are especially indebted to Christian Krause who discovered *S. estherae renatae* in Sulawesi and to Dr. Mees, Museum Leiden, for sending skins for comparison.

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Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* and Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, two new species for Thailand

by Philip D. Round

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During fieldwork on Doi Inthanon, Chiangmai Province, NW Thailand in December 1980 the author, in company with other ornithologists, made single sightings of both Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* and Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. Details are also given of a subsequent sighting of Lesser Whitethroat made by W. E. Fletcher.

SPECKLED WOOD PIGEON *Columba hodgsonii*.

On 16 December a flock of about 80 pigeons was seen in treetops by the roadside in an area of evergreen cloud forest at an elevation of about 2200 m. While perched, they were observed from a stationary vehicle by R. Dobias, D. S. Melville, G. C. Yong and the author at a range of 30-40 m. After about 2 minutes, they flew off down a steep forested slope and were lost from view. It was immediately recognised that the birds were of a species not previously recorded for Thailand, but they were not conclusively identified until reference had been made to King *et al.* (1975) and Ali (1977). Although rather heavily-built, the birds were noticeably smaller and more pointed-winged than Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* which was